



A

LETTER

Sent to M^r *Garway* (a Member of the R I G H T
H O N O R A B L E the House of Commons
of *England*) by an *English* Gentleman.

Wherein is Demonstrated,

That the Generality of *England* as well as *Ireland* is very
much prejudiced by the *Acts* of Parliament
Prohibiting *Irish* Cattle

S I R,



YOU may remember, that when I had the honor to meet you at Sir *Th. L.* Chamber in *Channel-Row*, there happened a Discourse, about Repealing the Act against *Irish* Cattle; and the great Argument which at that time you stuck at, was, that the breeding Countries of *England* would be very much prejudiced thereby: but, being you were then streightned in time, and since having had no conveniency of Discourse, I have adventur'd to Demonstrate, That *England* is much more prejudiced then *Ireland* by that Act, though both are great losers.

I have considered your Objection (as to the breeding Countries) and though I believe you Computed those Lands, much more then they are; yet, granting your Assertion, that there be four Millions of Acres that will not come near the loss and inconveniencies, which attend *England* in general, by this Act: But, I have made a more moderate Computation, as I Judge of the profitable Lands of *England*, which may be about sixteen Millions of Acres, which I divide thus, five Millions to the Plow, and the support of the Cattle that belongs to it; one Million and a half to the Horses, three Millions to the Sheep; two Millions to the Day-ryes; two Millions and a half for Feeding; so that there will remain but two Millions of the course breeding Lands (for I do not account here those Lands that will both feed and breed) which I Compute will raise a Million of Beasts yearly; and supposing the owners lose by each half a Crown a year, it will amount but to One hundred and twenty five thousand pounds a year; or were there four Millions of such Lands (as you supposed) it would amount to but Two hundred and fifty thousand pounds or thereabout, allowing ten shillings loss upon every Beast of four years old, and therefore the prejudice is very inconsiderable to those breeding Countries, in respect of the general Loss comes to this Kingdom by this Act, as will appear hereafter.

I shall begin with the Wool, which we find generally in our Western Countries, is fallen since that Act, two shillings in a stone at least, and I believe hath the same effects through the whole Kingdom, which if true, accounting Ten thousand Parishes in *England*, and but five hundred Sheep in every Parish, and five sheep to every stone, amounts to One hundred thousand pounds *per annum*: The Reason of this is clear; That since that Act, the *Irish* have converted the greatest part of their Lands to Sheep-walkes, and being necessitous of Moneys to pay their Rents, sell their Wool at an under-value, and so put the Rates upon the *English* Wool; for their Wool being granted (by all the Clothiers) to be generally as good, if not better then the *English*, yields as much Money: But, before this Act, the Sheep came over in specie, and the Wool came into *English* Mens hands, and they kept up the price, and sold it as the growth of *England*; besides, great quantities of Wool and Woollen yarn hath been Transported out of *Ireland* into *France* and *Holland* since these Acts, and the Manufactures of those Countries returned, viz. Hats, Druggets, Stockings, Buttons, Silkes, and several other Commodities, which before this Act were all bought in *England*.

And it will appear, that the *English* got by the *Irish* Sheep, that were brought into *England* before that Act, One hundred thousand pounds *per annum*, which was as much as the *Irish* Men sold their Sheep for at first; for, whatever Sheep were bought in *Ireland* for five shillings a piece, were sold for ten shillings, which is double to the Butchers of *England*; and so in proportion for all other prices, that they were bought for in *Ireland* at first: So accounting Four hundred thousand Sheep brought into *England*, there was a Hundred thousand pounds a year gotten by Sheep to the *English*, as aforesaid.

In the next place I take for granted, That there were yearly brought into *England* out of *Ireland* Three hundred thousand head of Cattel, be they more or less the reason will hold the same in proportion, accounting these Beasts to be sold to the Butchers in *England* at Three pounds ten shillings apiece, amounts to One Million and fifty thousand pounds, of which I allow forty shillings a head to the *Irish*, and is the utmost account one with the other they yielded them, which amounts to Six hundred thousand pounds, the other Four hundred and fifty thousand pounds is gotten to the *English* Seamen, and owners to the Grasiers, Drovers, Proprietors and Tenants of Feeding Lands, and the One hundred thousand pounds yearly the *Irish* received for Sheep, and Six hundred thousand pounds yearly for Beasts, they laid it all out and more in *English* Manufactures and Trade, or was spent in *England* by *Irish* Proprietors, which will appear by the Changes of Money in those times; for, if you had Moneys in *Ireland*, you could not have a hundred pounds in *England* under a hundred and five pounds at least, which could not be, if there was more laid out in *Ireland* in Cattel, then was returned by Traders, or spent by Proprietors in *England*, which being granted, it will appear, that we in *England* lose by this Act Four hundred and fifty thousand pounds by Cattel, a Hundred thousand pounds by Sheep, and a Hundred thousand pounds more by the fall of the price of Wool yearly, and the loss of the Trade of Five hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year more, for there is not now above one hundred and fifty thousand pounds a year in Wool, Hides and Tallow brought into *England*.

The Cattel in *Ireland* that they sold formerly for forty shillings a Head, are now sold for four Nobles, and the Sheep in proportion; so the *Irish* lose one third, which is about Two hundred thirty three thousand pounds a year; and the *English* lose Four hundred thousand pounds a year, deducting at the highest Rates, the loss of the Breeding Lands of *England*, which doth not exceed Two hundred and fifty thousand pounds *per annum*, besides the loss of the Trade, of the Five hundred and fifty thousand pounds before mentioned.

You may consider likewise, that it was necessity and force that brought the Manufactures of Wool out of *Flanders* into *England*, how much that is to the advantage of *England* I shall not now Treat of; and, may not the same necessity and force cause the *Irish* to be Industrious, and convert all their vast quantities of Wool into Manufactures there, and then of necessity they must under-sell *England*, for they buy their Wool at six and seven shillings the Stone, when its sold in *England* for eleven and twelve shillings the Stone; they buy all manner of Provisions by halfe cheaper, so that after a little time, that the People understand that Trade, they may afford

afford all Manufactures of Wool (having Conveniences of Ports and Shipping for Transportation beyond Seas) near a third part cheaper, which will lose the *English* Trade in all parts of the World, where the Manufactures of Wool goes off, how prejudicial that will be to all ranks of People in *England*, you may easily Judge.

And, Sir, if the Lord Lieutenant and Counsel of *Ireland* should desire His Majesty to grant them Power to make an Act of State, to encourage such a Manufactory, being necessitated thereto by this Act, How do you Judge His Majesty can in reason deny them, being His Subjects, who in Honor and Conscience He is bound to preserve equal to His other Kingdoms, when his Subjects of *England* will not give them leave to make the best of the Produce of their Lands? and certainly you cannot but apprehend that all the feeding Countries of *England* are very great Losers by this Act; for, the Breeders hold their Cattel so dear, by reason of the scarcity of them, that the Feeders are necessitated to buy at their rates, or else their Lands must lie waste, that when they come to sell them fat, they get very little or nothing more for them after five moneths feeding, then they paid for them leane; which shoves, that there is a want of Cattel, and more Feeding ground then Breeding in proportion; all sorts of Tradesmen, Labourers, and the Poor are very much prejudiced, for they are forced to work at the same rates they did before, and pay a third part more for their Victuals.

The Act of its self is without Example, for no *History* records, that any Prince or State made any Law to Prohibit Provisions from their State or Kingdom, for Plenty is the great Blessing of Almighty God, and where there is most of it, it hath alwayes been esteemed best, both for Prince and People: And, shall *England* Prohibit Provisions from *Ireland*, which is a Kingdom Governed by the same Prince, and the same Law, and four parts of five of the Proprietors of that Kingdom are of the *English* blood, and Protestant Religion, Were it just that two thirds of the breeding Countries of *England* (being the greater number) should make a Law, that the other third should not breed any Cattel at all, because the Cattel that they breed might go off at better Rates?

Here I have tired your Patience, with this long *Epistle*, and therefore shall add no more: But, though there may be some Errors in the quantity of Cattel and Sheep, or number of Acres, yet the same Reason will hold be they more or less; and, its Demonstrated, That *England* loses Five hundred thousand pounds a year, accounting but 20 of the Hundred to the Traders (all Deductions being made) and *Ireland* about Two hundred thirty three thousand pounds a year, all which he offers to your consideration, and remains

27th. December,
1673.

S I R,

Your Faithful Humble Servant,

H. N.